

AT A GLANCE

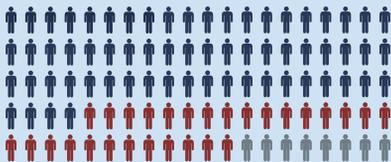
A nationwide surge in fake prescription pills, made and marketed by criminal drug networks, is driving harm, violence, and overdoses across the U.S.



DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS OVER THE LAST YEAR

The U.S. overdose epidemic is driven by fentanyl & methamphetamine

64% of overdose deaths involved synthetic opioids, primarily fentanyl



28% involved psychostimulants, primarily methamphetamine



THE THREAT

1 Fentanyl

Criminal drug networks are flooding the U.S. with fentanyl and fentanyl-laced fake pills, driving the nationwide overdose crisis.

15,000 lbs OF FENTANYL SEIZED IN 2021

Enough to supply a potentially lethal dose to every member of the U.S. population

2 Counterfeit Prescription Pills

Fake pills, marketed as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public, are easy to purchase and widely available. Many counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription opioids such as oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Percocet®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), and alprazolam (Xanax®); or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall®).



Authentic Oxycodone



Counterfeit Oxycodone

20.4 Million Fake Pills Seized in 2021

Today, 4 out of 10 DEA-tested fake pills with fentanyl contain a potentially deadly dose.

3 The Social Media Threat

Drug dealers are now harnessing the accessibility and anonymity of social media apps to push these deadly drugs into our communities faster, cheaper, and easier than ever before.



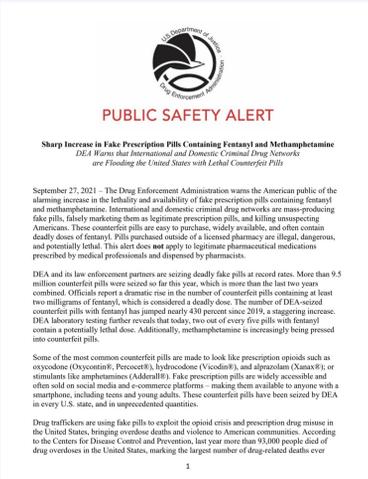
Known code words and emojis are used to market and sell illicit and deadly drugs on social media.

DEA'S RESPONSE

DEA's mission is to protect the safety and health of American communities from the harm, violence, and overdoses driven by criminal drug networks.

Public Safety Alert

DEA issued a Public Safety Alert warning the public of the dramatic increase in deadly, fake pills.



Phase 1 / Public Safety Surge Aug. 3 - Sept. 27, 2021

A public safety surge to address the alarming increase in the availability of fentanyl-laced fake pills.

Phase 1 Seizures	1.8 Million Fake Pills	1570 lbs Fentanyl
8840 lbs Meth	810 Arrests	158 Weapons

Phase 2 / Public Safety Surge Sept. 28 - Dec. 14, 2021

A second public safety surge targeting deadly, fake pills – and their increasing availability on social media platforms.

Phase 2 Seizures	8 Million Fake Pills	1500 lbs Fentanyl
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The Message to Americans

- 1 Never take medicine that wasn't prescribed to you by your doctor and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist.
- 2 Talk to your family and friends about the dangers of drugs online.
- 3 Spread the word that One Pill Can Kill.

The seizures were directly linked to:

46 overdoses & 39 overdose deaths.	At least 76 of the cases involved drug traffickers using social media applications	32 cases had direct ties to the major Mexican drug networks
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